

APPENDIX F

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aesthetics: sensitivity to or appreciation of the forest's beauty through recognition of its unique and varied components.

Annual: a plant that lives or grows for only one year or one growing season.

Biodiversity: the variety of life forms in a given area. Diversity can be categorized in terms of the number of species, the variety in the area's plant and animal communities, the genetic variability of the animals, or a combination of these elements.

Broadcast seeding: scattering seed over the soil surface.

Browse: woody vegetation consumed as food by wildlife.

Cabling: a tree clearing method accomplished by dragging a large steel cable between two tractors.

Canopy: a layer or multiple layers of branches and foliage at the top or crown of a forest's trees.

Chaining: a tree clearing method accomplished by dragging a heavy ship's anchor chain between two tractors.

Clearing: the process of removing all trees, large and small, in a stand in one cutting operation.

Climax community: a relatively stable and undisturbed plant community that has evolved through stages and adapted to its environment.

Competition: the struggle between plants to obtain sunlight, nutrients, water, and growing space.

Cover: (a) any plant that intercepts rain drops before they reach the soil or that holds soil in place; (b) a hiding place or vegetative shelter for wildlife from predators or inclement weather.

Critical winter range: habitat that provides deer and elk with resources critical to survival during severe winters.

Direct seeding: sowing seed into the soil.

Disturbance: a discrete event, either natural or human-induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

Ecosystem: a functional unit consisting of all the living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in a given area, and all the non-living physical and chemical factors of their environment, linked together through nutrient cycling and energy flow.

Ecotone: a transition area between two adjacent ecological communities usually exhibiting competition between organisms common to both.

Erosion: the wearing away of land or soil by the action of wind, water, or ice.

Forage: vegetation such as leaves, stems, buds, and some types of bark that can be eaten for food and energy.

Forb: a broad-leaved herbaceous plant.

Genetic diversity: variation among and within species that is attributable to differences in hereditary material.

Habitat: the physical and biological resources required by an organism for its survival and reproduction. For wildlife, habitat is the combination of food, water, cover, and space.

Herbaceous production: the rate at which biomass of grasses and forbs accumulates over a given area in a certain period of time.

Interseeding: seeding into established stands of vegetation to supplement existing plant communities.

Karst: terrain with special landforms and drainage characteristics due to greater than common solubility of certain rocks in natural waters.

Lopping and scattering: lopping the slash created after felling and spreading it more or less evenly over the ground without burning.

Mast: fruits or nuts used as a food source by wildlife.

Perennial: a plant that lives or grows for more than one year.

Prescribed fire: fire used under specific environmental conditions to achieve forest management objectives.

Pushing: a clearing method which employs a bulldozer or tractor to uproot trees.

Regeneration: the process of plant replacement or renewal through natural means (sprouting or seeding) or artificial means (seeding or transplanting).

Restoration: the return of an ecosystem or habitat to its original community structure, natural complement of species, and natural functions.

Rollerchopping: a tree clearing method accomplished by dragging a large steel drum with cutting blades across an area.

Root collar: the transition zone between stem and root at the ground line of a tree or seedling.

Selective thinning: the periodic removal of individual trees or groups of trees to improve or regenerate a stand.

Seral stage: any stage of development of an ecosystem from a disturbed, unvegetated state to a climax plant community.

Slash: the unwanted branches, bark, or other debris left on the ground after tree removal.

Snag: a standing dead or dying tree.

Succession: the natural sequence of plant community replacement beginning with bare ground and resulting in a final climax community.

Thinning: a tree removal practice that reduces tree density and competition between trees in a stand.

Tillage: cultivating soil with plow or disk.

Understory: any plants growing under the canopy formed by other plants, particularly herbaceous and shrub vegetation under a tree canopy.

Watershed: an area of land that collects and discharges water into a single main stream through a series of smaller tributaries.

Winter range: habitat, usually at lower elevation, used by deer during the winter months.